



SATURDAY EVENING, JAN. 19, 1901.

As both experience and human nature teach that though there may be much wisdom in a multitude of counselors, it is rarely effective, being nearly always overwhelmed by the ignorance and foolishness and prejudice or something else of the majority, many intelligent well-wishers of Virginia agree with Mr. Ryan, of Loudoun county, ex-Speaker of the House of Delegates, that it would be better for all the interests of the State if the membership of the constitutional convention be restricted to the number of Senatorial districts, forty, or at the most, to two members from each of those forty districts. With such a restriction, there would, of course, be less gabble and less time consumed, but that the changes they would make in the constitution of the State would be more conducive to the State's welfare, is not doubted by many of the most intelligent and conservative men of affairs in Virginia.

Among those who voted for the army bill yesterday, were Senators Lindsay, Morgan, Sullivan and McLaurin, who hail from Southern States, who still sit on the democratic side of the Senate, and still call themselves democrats, though that bill is essentially imperialistic, confers the power of an emperor upon the President, and is well termed by Senator Bate, an infamous measure. But so great a change has come over so many Southern people and the men they send to Congress, in recent years, that what they say or do now, excites no special wonder.

SENATOR BATE of Tennessee, who has accepted an invitation to the banquet to be given by Lee Camp at their celebration of General Lee's birthday tonight, is a real, true blue, old-time, ex-Confederate soldier who came to Virginia at the commencement of the war between the States, was in the skirmish at Aquia Creek, and fought gallantly all through that war, being dangerously wounded three times. He is not only a consistent ex-Confederate, but a consistent democrat, and therefore is always reliable.

General Lee's birthday, is a legal holiday in Virginia and many other Southern States, and should be in all, not only in honor of the memory of the model soldier of the nineteenth century, but to teach the young men of the South that the Northern ideas that success is the measure of merit and that might makes right, are utterly and patently incorrect, for if there ever was a just cause, with just, honorable and capable men at its head, it was that whose banner was furled in sorrow at Appomattox.

SENATOR COCKRILL, of Missouri, asked a very pertinent question in the debate on the army bill in the Senate yesterday. It was why the time of Congress should be consumed in legislating for the Philippine Islands, when those islands were under the sole and direct control of the President? If the President is an emperor, why interfere with his authority?

FROM WASHINGTON.

(Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.)

Washington, January 19.—Appropriation bills will occupy the time of the Senate next week, together with an occasional speech on the ship-subsidy bill. The legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bill is taken up Monday. Usually this measure is not provocative of debate. Senator Pettigrew, however, says it will take three or four days to pass it. He has a six hour speech in his desk which he did not have to use on the army bill, and other Senators are equally well provided. This is ammunition against the subsidy, and part of it, Pettigrew says, will be judiciously expended during the first few days of the week. The military academy and the Indian appropriation bills are the other measures booked for consideration during the week. The District of Columbia appropriation bill will engage the attention of the House next Monday and Tuesday. The latter part of the week will be given to the naval appropriation bill, which is sure to arouse much debate on the question of the price of armor and the extent of the proposed increase in the navy. The old fight between the Navy department and the coast and geodetic survey over the question as to which bureau should make the surveys of our outlying insular possessions will also be renewed on this measure.

The Senate finance committee will hear Senators and Representatives from the tobacco States this afternoon on the question of the reduction of the tax on tobacco. The republican members of the committee have already reached an agreement as to the character of the bill which will be reported to the Senate. It will provide for a 50 per cent. reduction all along the line. The tax on telegraph messages and express packages will be reduced to half a cent with a proviso that the companies must pay the tax. The tax on tobacco, which is now 12 cents per pound, is to be reduced to nine cents. That on bank checks is to be made one cent to be paid by the person drawing the check, the banks paying the tax on certificates. The taxes on brokers, etc., are to be reduced one-half. The total effect of the bill is to reduce the revenues by about fifty million dollars.

The President is better this morning than he has been since his illness began.

He signed several bills and documents in his office and intends taking a drive this afternoon should the weather be favorable.

The army reorganization bill having passed both Senate and House, now goes to a conference committee consisting of representatives of both houses for the purpose of arranging which of the amendments adopted by the Senate shall become law. Because of the importance of the subject it is expected that this conference committee will begin its work today. Rather than run the risk of another long debate in the Senate it is believed that the House will accept most of the changes made in the upper chamber. The chief points of difference are as follows: The Senate wants volunteer officers commissioned as captains, and first and second lieutenants; the House limits them to the grade of second lieutenants. The Senate abolished the age limit for volunteers; the House made the limit 40 years. The Senate wants a detailed staff; the House an interchangeable staff in certain grades. The Senate established a female nurse corps; the House omitted this; the Senate authorized the President to appoint and retire Wm. R. Shafter as a major general, and Fitzhugh Lee and James H. Wilson as brigadier generals; the House voted these propositions down; the Senate wants a reorganized organization in the artillery arm, while the House wants a corps organization. The features of the bill about which there is no controversy and which it is now assured will become law are as follows: The permanent standing army is increased from its present strength, 30,000 men, to 55,000, and in the discretion of the President, under existing emergencies, to 100,000. The President is authorized to organize provisional regiments of natives in the Philippines and Porto Rico. The sale of beer, as well as of spirituous liquors, at all army posts is hereinafter prohibited.

W. T. Abbott, of Porto Rico, was heard by the House committee on insular affairs this morning on measures which have been introduced to extend the jurisdiction of United States courts in that island. The Porto Rican act gave these courts jurisdiction only in cases involving amounts of \$2,000 or over. Mr. Abbott told the committee that the native courts were hopelessly corrupt and that the present restriction was militating against the best interests of the island by keeping out American capital. No action will be taken until the U. S. Supreme Court shall have rendered its decision on the cases now pending.

Congressman-elect Flood, of Virginia, was here yesterday, consulting with some of his to-be State colleagues concerning the reapportionment of the Virginia districts by the legislature of that State, at the coming, or at the next, session of that body in accordance with the apportionment bill recently passed by Congress. The understanding is that the districts had better remain as they are, at least for the present.

The administration having discovered that the people are not so jinglish as it is, has prudently determined to let Venezuela alone.

Senator Morgan's pet Nicaragua canal scheme, even with Senator Platt's support, is generally supposed to be dead.

All the sons of living or dead Presidents are to be invited to act as aids at the coming inauguration of President McKinley.

A fight will be made in the conference committee on the army bill, if that bill shall pass in its present shape a vote will be taken in any of the ways in which this country has been engaged, can be appointed over a regular officer, no matter how long he may have served; the artillery force will be organized as a corps, and not as now, and staff officers as soon as they have become proficient may be sent back to their regiments, to give place here to men who have stronger pulls.

Congressman Rixey of the Alexandria district is indisposed today and will not be able to attend the Lee Camp celebration in Alexandria tonight.

Congressman Hay of the 7th Virginia district, if he shall be recognized by the Speaker, will make another attempt today to have passed the bill for a monument to General Morgan of Revolutionary fame.

Among the visitors at the Capitol today was Mr. W. A. Anderson of Lexington, Virginia, president of the famous anti-Martin May convention. Several other people who had been at the convention have also been here recently consulting with their friends.

The Virginia legislature meets next week and several of its members have stopped here on their way to Richmond. Some of them say the Governor is not talked about much except by the politicians, but that from what they hear, Congressman Swanson, who has the support of the two Senators, and the majority of the Representatives from the State, seems to be in the lead.

The bill that provides for the purchase of the old power house at 134 street, and the building out of it a hall of records, to extend across E street so as to front directly on Pennsylvania avenue, and thereby to form an Alexandria electric railway company to move its depot, will, it is reported at the Capitol today, be reported adversely.

The bill leasing the fifth floor of the Star building, at an annual rent of \$4,000, to the government for the rural free delivery service, having passed both houses of Congress, was sent to the President today, who will sign it at once.

General MacArthur's telegrams from Manila are full of interest. The movement of the army is no more noticeable here than in garriens in the United States. Considering the whole force as a unit it is probably very much less. In Manila drunken men are very noticeable, as one drunk in a public place creates an impression among citizens of extreme disorder throughout the whole force, which is not the case. The army is in splendid discipline with a high state of efficiency, doing the hardest kind of service in the most faithful, unflinching manner. Houses of prostitution are not licensed, protected or encouraged.

Edward Wolfenden was today appointed postmaster at Barron Springs, Wythe county, Virginia, vice C. A. Morris, resigned.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

One battleship each will be built at Newport News, Va., and Bath, Me., under a decision reached by Secretary Long.

Dun's financial circular reports that the failures for the week were 325 in the United States against 242 last year and 43 in Canada, against 40 last year.

President McKinley's congratulations to Emperor William in honor of the Prussian kingdom's bicentenary were delivered by Ambassador White yesterday.

Dr. R. C. Flower, who recently sold questionable mining stock in Washington, Baltimore and New York to widows, waiters, clerks, and bankers to the extent of one and a-half million dollars and fled, is now in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico.

VIRGINIA NEWS.

A general primary for nominating a democratic candidate for governor of Virginia is being urged in Richmond.

Five oyster sloops were captured yesterday by the cruiser Chesapeake, of the State oyster navy. All the poachers were fined.

In the Caroline county court yesterday Hammond Glason, seventeen years old, was convicted of burglary and sentenced to five years in the penitentiary.

The United States government has agreed to return to the State of Virginia \$30,000 worth of quartermaster's stores, etc., furnished during the Spanish-American war.

An effort is being made to induce the democratic State committee to name Richmond as the place for the gubernatorial convention. Lynchburg is more likely to win it.

The country home of the late Dr. Hunter McGuire, near Richmond, containing 33 acres, was sold yesterday to the Union Theological Seminary, which institution it adjoins, for \$16,735.

Orkney Springs, Shenandoah county, owned by Mrs. Henrietta Stewart, of Washington, has recently been purchased by Messrs. R. E. Doan & Co., of Washington, at a price of about \$55,000.

The Farmers' Institute to be held in Warrenton on the 24th of January will be well attended by the farmers of Fauquier and adjoining counties. Prominent speakers will lecture on practical subjects.

Mrs. H. Russell tried to end her life by drinking two bottles of laudanum at her home, at Leesburg, yesterday. When found Mrs. Russell was in an unconscious condition. She was restored to consciousness, but is not out of danger.

Edward Emmett was arrested in Staunton yesterday and confessed stealing a quantity of merchandise from mail sacks. The inspectors say they have unearthed the biggest mail robbery, in extent, though not in money value, of their fourteen years' service. Emmett for eighteen months has been the mail carrier between the postoffice at Staunton and the railway stations.

Fire yesterday afternoon totally destroyed the handsome residence of Mrs. Ann Louise Luke, widow of the late John W. Luke, near Berryville. Mrs. Luke and her daughter were alone in the house at the time, and when the fire was discovered the whole second and third stories were ablaze. The ladies were unable to save anything. The loss is \$3,000, partly covered by insurance.

A FIGHT IN THE DARK.

Thomas W. Moore, aged 20, while reading in his room at 1:30 o'clock yesterday morning near Richmond, heard the rattling of silver, and softly stepped into the hall. He heard someone below, and realized that a burglar was taking off the family silver. Without hesitation he vaulted over the banisters, and alighted on the lower landing in the embrace of a burglar. Young Moore's foot struck a basket on the burglar's arm as he descended, scattering silverware to the value of \$250 over the stairs and hallway. The men clinched, and a struggle ensued in the pitchy darkness. Young Moore himself is an athlete, and the unknown burglar proved to be a heavy, powerful man. The two fought with nature's weapons down the stairs and into the front hall. Not a word was spoken, but the battle was not a quiet one. The silver, scattered about the floor, jingled as it was knocked hither and thither, chairs were overturned with a crash, and finally a heavy fall shook the entire building. Mr. Moore had thrown his man, taken a firm grip on his throat and was choking him vigorously. Just as the burglar was about to end in Mr. Moore's favor the man freed one of his arms and struck him a glancing, but violent blow on the side of the head. Mr. Moore was dazed for a moment, and the man, taking advantage of his opportunity, darted through the back door, which he had left wide open, and made his escape. The entire household had been aroused by this time, and hurried to the scene. They found the young man out of breath by reason of his encounter, but in no way injured, except a bruise on the side of the head. None of the silver was missing. The young man is a son of Capt. J. B. Moore, a widely known general insurance agent in Richmond, whose residence is near Bon Air, a suburban village near the city. Mr. Moore says his hallway looked as if it had been struck by a cyclone when lights were brought. He has offered a reward for the burglar.

THE ARMY BILL.

After voting down a number of amendments, the friends of the army reorganization bill succeeded in getting a vote on it at about 6 o'clock yesterday evening, and the bill was passed by the safe majority of 43 to 23. It now goes to a conference of the two houses. A determined effort is being made to amend the bill so as to provide for the sale of liquor in the Philippines and to prohibit the importation of liquors into the islands met with failure. A number of amendments were offered, but the committee was generally sustained. Four democrats joined the republicans and swelled the majority in favor of the measure. They were Messrs. Lindsay, McLaurin, Morgan and Sullivan.

If troubled with a weak digestion, belching, sour stomach, or if you feel dull after eating, try Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets. Price, 25 cents. Samples free at Richard Gibson's drug store.

Pepsin preparations often fail to relieve indigestion because they can digest only small amounts of food. The tablets digest all classes of food, and that is Kodol Dyspepsia Cure. It cures the worst cases of indigestion and gives instant relief, for it digests what you eat.

TO-DAY'S TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

The Queen's Illness.

Osborne, Isle of White, Jan. 19.—At noon the following bulletin was issued: "The Queen is suffering from great physical prostration, accompanied by symptoms which cause grave anxiety. The Queen is perceptibly worse since morning."

London, Jan. 19.—The bulletin on the Queen's health, which was issued from Osborne house, Cowes, at noon, has been posted at the Mansion House. It is signed by the Queen's physicians, Reid and Powell. The Prince and the Princess Louise arrived at Osborne house this evening. All of the Queen's children will be with her tonight except the Dowager Empress Frederick. The Duke of the Connaught and all the members of the family, who are in Berlin, have been summoned to Osborne. The Duke of Cambridge left for Paris this morning. Before leaving a court official assured him that the Queen was much better today.

Paris, Jan. 19.—The Duke of Cambridge arrived here from London today. An urgent telegram concerning the Queen's health awaited him. He is preparing to return to London on the night boat.

Manchester, Jan. 19.—The Courier states that the Queen had a slight stroke of paralysis Christmas week.

Liverpool, Jan. 19.—The Post says the Queen's eyesight has again failed and that Professor Pagendorfer, the famous German specialist, has been privately summoned to Osborne from Wiesbaden.

London, Jan. 19.—It is best opinion that the Queen's life is not in immediate danger, but it is agreed that the breaking up of her marvelous constitution has begun and the end cannot be far off. It can be stated on good authority that the Queen is suffering from catarrh of the stomach, symptoms of which appeared a few days ago. Not only have the cares of the war, but the death of Lady Churchill, her companion and most intimate friend, who died on Christmas Eve, has greatly depressed her. The Queen often remarked that she would not long survive Lady Churchill. As much of the government business cannot go on without the Queen's signature there is talk of making the Prince of Wales regent. This cannot be done except by an order from Parliament. That body was prorogued to meet on February 14. The first official intimation that the Queen is fatally ill will probably be received in a summons for Parliament to meet at an early date.

Portsmouth, Jan. 19.—An official with a grave message met the Prince of Wales on his arrival here. There is little attempt to disguise the belief that the Queen is dying.

The Prince of Wales accompanied by the Princess Louise, arrived here at 3:50 p. m. They crossed to Cowes, immediately on the royal yacht Alberta which had been waiting for them with steam up.

London, Jan. 19.—A telephone message from Sir Arthur Bigge, the Queen's private secretary, received at 4:40 p. m. said Mrs. May's condition was then unchanged. He also stated that no further bulletins would be issued until tomorrow.

There is deep public agitation manifested on all sides in London. The bulletin at the Mansion house removes the slightest doubt that the Queen is seriously ill, and the worst is feared. All the extras are eagerly bought and the sale of afternoon papers containing accounts of the movements of the Royal family and various reports from Osborne, has been a special feature in all the churches tomorrow. A special train is conveying the Princesses of Wales from Sandringham to Osborne. At 4:20 p. m. a telephone message from Buckingham palace said that they had had Osborne house on the telephone five minutes previously. At that time the first bulletin issued by the physicians still obtained. There had been no change in the Queen's condition since noon.

London, Jan. 19.—Emperor William is accompanying the Duke of Connaught to Osborne.

London, Jan. 19.—The cruiser Minerva, leaving Portsmouth at 9 o'clock tonight to intercept the vessel on which the Duke of Connaught will cross the channel in order to take the duke direct to Osborne.

London, Jan. 19.—A rumor was current this afternoon that the Queen was dead. Lord Salisbury was seen personally and stated that he had not heard the rumor and placed no credence in it.

London, Jan. 18.—It is stated that the Queen, far from suffering from insomnia, is practically in a comatose condition. She is with difficulty aroused and cannot move without assistance.

London, Jan. 19.—A telephone message from Buckingham Palace received at 7 p. m. says that the Queen's condition is still unchanged.

Birmingham, Jan. 19.—The Argus has received news from Osborne that the Queen is sinking rapidly.

The Boscchetter Case.

Paterson, N. J., Jan. 19.—The jury in the trial of Allister, Death and Campbell, charged with the murder of Jennie Boscchetter, took a ballot as soon as it retired yesterday evening. The result was: First degree, 5; second degree, 6; and acquittal, 1. Then they talked the case over and after a discussion lasting over two hours they voted again. This time it was unanimous for second degree murder. The attorneys for the defense say they will appeal. Kerr's trial is expected to go on without delay. He is anxious, he says, to "have it over with quick." It is probable that the three convicted men will not be sentenced until after Kerr's trial. The general opinion is that they will get the limit of the law, thirty years, or pretty near it. They can reduce their time two months out of each year by good conduct.

At the meeting last night of the Confederate Veterans Camp, of New York, Mrs. Jefferson Davis was the guest of the veterans and was escorted to the banquet hall by General Joe Wheeler. Bishop Dudley spoke and declared that Gen. Lee would not have permitted being at West Point.

The congressional committee investigating the West Point hanging matter will finish their inquiry today.

Get this out and take it to Richard Gibson's drug store and get a free sample of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets, the best physic. They also cure disorders of the stomach, biliousness and headache.

The most soothing, healing and antiseptic application ever devised is Dr. Williams' Witch Hazel Salve. It relieves at once and cures piles, sores, eczema and skin diseases. Beware of imitations.

Foreign News.

Paris, Jan. 19.—The Dan de Broglie, once prime minister and a distinguished statesman and author, is dead.

Cape Town, Jan. 19.—Trouble is feared on February 1, which is the date fixed for disarming all the colonists. The Dutch farmers are meeting secretly with alarming frequency.

London, Jan. 19.—At the office for the receiving of the 5,000 yeomanry called for by the government, it is decided that there has been a rush of Englishmen to enlist and the officers at the recruiting office express the fear that they will not be able to fill the required quota. A large proportion of applicants are men who were previously rejected because of physical disability.

Konitz, Moravia, Jan. 19.—Some of the chief criminal officers in the kingdom have arrived here with bloodhounds to investigate the sensational murder of a gynaest named Winter. The corpse was dismembered and so far the left arm and leg, the right thigh and the intestines have not been recovered. The man's underwear is also missing as well as his hat and boots and his watch and chain. There is supposed to be a woman in the case.

London, Jan. 19.—A heavy fog prevails on the coast and several accidents to shipping are reported.

A court order is issued today winding up the affairs of the London and Globe finance corporation which collapsed several weeks ago.

Manila, Jan. 19.—Lieut. John Morrison, of the Fourth Cavalry, was killed yesterday near Penaranda, about fifty miles east of San Isidro. Lieut. Morrison was on a scouting expedition when he met his death. His men recovered the body.

Serious Trolley Car Accident.

Newcastle, Penn., Jan. 19.—Passengers on a street car had a thrilling ride early this morning. The car thundered down for half a mile then dashed into the city building tearing out one entire end. Five of the company's employees were seriously injured and several of the passengers were cut and bruised. Motorman Haks stood by the brake until the car dashed into the building. He was taken out from under a huge trimming stone that had fallen fourteen feet. He says that he tried the sand at the top of the hill and that it worked properly. There were several inches of snow on the tracks and when the power brake was used it had no effect.

A Snow Storm.

New York, Jan. 19.—A unique storm swooped down on New York at 11:15 a. m. today. The air had been bitterly cold and though a few flakes of snow had fallen in the early hour, the sky was almost cloudless. At 12:15 thick black clouds came out of the west much like those that preceded a thunder storm in the last month and snow began to fall in clouds. A high wind accompanied the snow. The white particles filled the air so densely that pedestrians could hardly see a foot away. A wild rush for shelter was made. The snow equalled last fifteen minutes, passing away to the east. Wires in that section have temporarily gone up.

Attempted Murder and Suicide.

New York, Jan. 19.—Nathan May, 64 years of age, tried to kill his former employer, Benjamin S. Moss and Wm. Fox, on West Broadway this morning. He fired two shots, one at each man, but failed to hit a mark. He was quickly surrounded by a crowd. Seeing capture was imminent he turned the pistol on himself and fired, killing himself instantly. The tragedy occurred in front of the store of Fox and No. 567 West Broadway. May had been discharged for incompetency.

FIRE IN WASHINGTON.

Three-story and basement structure, Nos. 817-819 Fourteenth street, northwest, Washington, last night, caused damage estimated at \$120,000. The building was owned and occupied by the Pope Bicycle Manufacturing Company, which used the first floor, and Milo B. Stevens & Company, claims and patent attorneys, who had their offices on the second and third floors. The fire, which is believed to have started in the basement, spread rapidly to the main floors and through the elevator shaft to the third story. The loss of both concerns involved is covered by insurance.

Robbery and Murder.

Dallas, Tex., Jan. 19.—Telegrams to bankers here state that at 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon a man, wearing a red robe into Bostow, a place of 300 inhabitants in the western part of the Creek Nation, Indian Territory, and robbed the bank of Bristow of all cash on hand estimated at from \$10,000 to \$50,000, and killed President J. H. Moxey. It is stated that Cashier J. B. Charles and Assistant Cashier Hutchings were wounded. No captures were made. The robbers rode northward into Oklahoma. A posse was made up and followed.

The widow of the late W. E. Craig, ex-collector of United States internal revenue for the Western district, hanged herself with a rope from the railing of a side porch of her residence in Staunton Thursday morning. Some time ago her mother, Mrs. Ayres, died, and this was a great shock to Mrs. Craig. She had been much depressed since her mother's death and often expressed a wish to die, but had made no previous attempt to end her life. She was over sixty years old. Her funeral took place this morning.

Dan Stewart has arrived in New York to match Jeffries and Fitzsimmons to a fight to a finish. He has secured the lease of the Arena in Carson City, Nevada.

An old building on East 234 street, New York, was partially demolished by the high wind this morning. A large derrick was caused to crash through the roof, causing the death of two men and the dangerous injury of another. Several others had narrow escapes.

\$100 REWARD.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh is a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers that they offer \$100 Reward for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials. Address, F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, 75c. Hall's Family Pills are the best.

WANT A NEW COUNCIL.

MEETING OF CITIZENS FAVORING STREET IMPROVEMENTS, SEWERAGE, ETC.

A meeting of citizens favoring street improvements and sewerage and desiring a change in the personnel of the present City Council was held last night in the Business Men's League rooms. A number of those present made speeches in which street improvements were urged. It seemed to be the opinion of all who voiced their sentiments that a new Council should be selected at the coming spring election, it being alleged that the present bodies were at variance with themselves and would never carry out the wishes of those present at the meeting. Politics, they thought, should be eliminated, and in the event of the democratic committee refusing to allow any but known democrats to participate in the primary election, then candidates in accord with those present should be put into the field at the general election. It was also determined that at least one hundred citizens should be induced to subscribe ten dollars each to a campaign fund. A bond issue was favored in order that street improvements and sewerage could be prosecuted. Some thought that by retrenchment in repairing streets no perceptible increase in taxes would be necessary. Those present declared that politically they had no axes to grind, but that their main object was to form an organization for the commercial betterment of the city, and not to formulate political issues.

The following were present: Messrs. M. B. Harlow, George R. Hill, F. F. Polard, John Crilly, W. M. Reardon, Harry Kirk, H. F. Robertson, R. F. Tucker, Dr. Quackenbush, James Bayne, W. B. Smoot, Henry Straus, Isaac Eichberg, C. C. Leadbeater, G. B. Carlin, G. W. Ramsey, J. F. Tackett, A. D. Brockett, J. R. Caton, E. E. Downham and J. R. Zimmerman, Jr. Three newspaper reporters were also present.

About eight o'clock, on motion of Mr. Isaac Eichberg, Mr. M. B. Harlow was called to the chair. The latter upon assuming the position said the object of the meeting was to bring about a gathering of the business men of the community to consider the best plan for the improvement of the city. All knew of the low ob at present prevailing. A large number had promised to be present.

Mr. Isaac Eichberg said he had understood that the meeting had been called for the purpose of devising ways and means for furthering the city's interests. The administration of the city's affairs for the past two years had not been satisfactory. There had been too much wrangling in the City Council and the interests of the community had suffered in the meantime. He wanted no office, but was present pro bono publico. It was apparent to every one that the city was standing still, or even worse, was making a retrograde movement. We wanted proper legislation, and a new Council was the great desideratum—a reform Council. He hoped all present would express their opinions.

Mr. James Bayne arose and said he had prepared a pamphlet bearing on the subject of the meeting, and read a large portion of it. The paper was an exhaustive comparison of the growth of Washington and other places compared with Alexandria's slow pace during the past forty years. It urged the adoption of modern streets and sewers, showed discrepancy in assessments in Alexandria and the alleged practicability of a bond issue for public improvements. He, too, favored a new and progressive Council.

Mr. J. R. Caton spoke in commendation of Mr. Bayne's exhibit and made some remarks in the same line.

Mr. George R. Hill suggested, if Mr. Bayne would permit, that the exhibit should be published. The comparisons were remarkable and people should have an opportunity of studying it leisurely.

Mr. Caton again took the floor and went into a lengthy history of previous attempts to beautify the city, especially when he was a member of the City Council, and how his plans had not met with the approval of his conferees. He now favored the elimination of political issues and the election of a progressive Council; otherwise nothing would be done. It should be gone into earnestly and made a question of life and death whether or not the city was to remain in its present condition of lethargy.

Ex-Mayor Straus was the next speaker. He succinctly gave his views concerning the issues before the meeting, and thought if money could be channeled into the city, it would be well. Mr. B. Smoot at the last meeting of Council, there was no good reason why funds could not be raised for the improvement of the city. He believed it could be done without increasing taxes. He regretted the fact that proceedings of Council were not more harmonious, and that the members did not vie in public improvements.

Ex-Mayor Downham subsequently took the floor. He, too, regretted that there was not more accord in the administration of the city's affairs. He thought the time had come when a Council should be elected which would rise superior to petty spite and jealousies and work together for the public good. He gave a history of his experience when in the Mayor's office, during which he showed that he had endeavored to formulate a plan of slow, but steady, street improvement. Some of his ideas had been adopted by Council and some had not. He described the modus operandi pursued in Buffalo, N. Y., when public improvements were needed—i. e., assessing abutting property, and if the owners desired they could pay the levies; if not the interest on the amount, while their portion of the improvement tax was charged against the property. He thought the time had arrived for the people of this city to take some decided action.

Mr. Eichberg favored the appointment of a committee of one hundred to devise plans by which suitable men could be induced to run for Council—men who would pledge themselves to further the objects of the meeting. He spoke of the present condition of the streets of Alexandria and argued to show the need of immediate action. Nothing could be expected from the present Council, as most of the time of its meetings was spent in wrangling. Mr. Harlow favored a smaller committee, one hundred being unwieldy. He insisted that something should be done; the present Council was deteriorating, not enhancing the city's interest. Mr. Caton spoke of the unseemly differences which were continually cropping out in the present administration over trivial affairs, while more weightier matters were not considered. He, however, was not speaking in a censorious vein, as they were all gentlemen. But it was unfortunate that such a condition existed. He favored the appointment of a committee to interview citizens in sympathy with the objects of the meeting and see who would serve as Councilmen, the committee to report at a subsequent meeting. One or two citizens in every block should be enlisted in the work. An organization was the sine qua non of the movement.

Mr. A. D. Brockett spoke in sympathy with the objects of the meeting, and voiced substantially what had been said by the previous speakers. He suggested that a committee of one hundred be formed and that each member subscribe \$10, the sum thus derived to be used for campaign purposes, saying that if the business men wished to win out they should give money for that object.

It was finally decided to appoint a committee of ten to formulate the plans of the meeting, the committee to meet next Monday night. It was subsequently enlarged to twenty-five. The following were appointed: Messrs. J. R. Caton, A. D. Brockett, C. C. Leadbeater, E. E. Downham, Geo. R. Hill, W. B. Smoot, James Bayne, Isaac Eichberg, H. F. Robertson, G. B. Carlin, J. R. Zimmerman, Jr., H. Kirk, J. F. Tackett, John Crilly, R. F. Tucker, W. M. Reardon, M. B. Harlow, Frank T. King, F. S. Harper, J. T. Fannon, Worth Fulshaw, W. A. Smoot, Jr., Geo. S. French, J. W. Emmert, Park Agnew and Henry Straus.

FIFTY-SIXTH CONGRESS.

Washington, January 19.

SENATE.

The credentials of Mr. Fry, president pro tem, re-elected Senator from Maine for the full term beginning March